

9 February 2024



Meeting Minutes

Southern Community Liaison Group

Date	9/02/2024	Time	10:00am - 12:00pm
Chair	Mike Marasco	Meeting no.	1 of 2024
Location	Veneto Club	Minute taker	Jacqueline Weedon

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Mike Marasco (MM)	Independent Chair	Leah McGuinness (LM)	Whitehorse City Council
Joe Carbone (JC)	Community Representative	Vicky Setches (VS)	Shaun Leane MP Office
Judith Voce (JV)	Community Representative	Alexander Law (AL)	Community Representative
Matthew Hill (MHi)	NELP, Package Director	Glennys Jones (GJ)	Community Representative
Clare Davey (CD)	Boroondara City Council	Frank Freschi (FF)	Community Representative
Nicholas Moore (NM)	Community Representative	John van Delft (JvD)	Community Representative
Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	Laing O'Rourke, Senior Community Relations Manager	Kurt Smith (KS)	NELP, Graduate Communications and Stakeholder Relations
Milan Dhruve (MD)	Spark, Project Manager	Connor Curtin (CC)	Manningham City Council
Michael Hobbs (MH)	NELP, Manager, Stakeholder Relations and Communications - South	Christopher Woodroffe (CW)	NELP, Deputy Director Communications and Stakeholder Relations
Tallis Richmond (TR)	NELP, Government Relations Manager	Jim Waller (JW)	NELP, Executive Program Director
Elizabeth Patena (EP)	NELP, Acting Community Partnerships Manager	Chris Logan (CL)	Spark, Community Engagement Manager
Sam Doyle (SD)	NELP, Manager, Interface Communications and Stakeholder Engagement	Hamid Peimany (HP)	Spark, Communications and Community Engagement Advisor

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Shaun Leane MP	Member of Parliament	Bruce Plain	Community Representative

Nic Morton (NMo)	NELP, Senior Communications and Stakeholder Relations Advisor	Ivan Zarezkij (IZ)	Spark, Senior Communications Advisor, Manningham
Ros Magee (RM)	Community Representative	Otto Sargent (OS)	Community Representative
Mia McMahon (MMc)	Spark, Manager Community Engagement		

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Action
Mike Marasco (MM)	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledged apologies Confirmed previous meeting minutes read and adopted MM advised the group that Bruce Plain (BAAG) will become the SCLG representative and Paul McMorran (BAAG) will be attending SBLG meetings in future Actions: Nil
Jim Waller (JW)	<p>2024 Program Overview: Presentation included project timeline, community focus, works focus and Jobs and Social Value overview.</p> <p>FF: We've experienced the impact on the community and traffic flow during the Bulleen Road diversion, The businesses on Bulleen Rd are all saying the works are having a devastating effect. What lessons have you learnt from this and other areas of the program? What steps are you taking to reduce impacts to business, schools, sporting clubs etc in future? JW: Unfortunately, the works are hard to visualize until they begin. We have to do better with things such as wayfinding signage, seeking feedback from the community etc.</p> <p>GJ: I've just told my husband not to meet me here after this meeting as there's too much cyclist interaction with trucks. The attitude I'm seeing with this project towards pedestrians and cyclists, is SUP are being removed here and although there were delays the ones on Footscray Road remained safely open. JW: I will ask the team to look into this.</p> <p>GJ: It needs to be a long term solution, people who don't drive shouldn't be treated as second class citizens. JW: I will write to the Package Directors when I return to the office and ask them to look into other solutions. The area will be a much better place once the works are completed. It would be great if we could work together on improvements that can be made.</p> <p>FF: The whole eco system of traffic that flows is having a huge impact during construction JW: People need time to get used to the changes. We are working on how we can make it easier for drivers with better wayfinding etc.</p> <p>JV: When you were talking about when the project was conceived in 2014 and how the cost has increase have you done the same calculations for the other route options that were proposed? JW: No, this hasn't been done. Project costs have increased since the business case noting there was an extensive and competitive tender process.</p>
Milan Dhruve (MD) Hamid Peimany (HP)	<p>Presentation covering 8-week lookahead, overview of Manningham and Bulleen Sites using drone footage and Traders update, including previewing the Bulleen "Open for Business" activation.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>NM: You mentioned that flood walls are being constructed on Bulleen Road, can you please provide more detail? MD: They are to protect the tunnel from flooding events, they look like a retaining wall which will keep the water out of the tunnel during a flood event.</p> <p>NM: Where will they be located? MD: Outside of Carey Oval on the Western side of Bulleen Road.</p> <p>FF: Can you explain the stages of the Manningham Rd diversion? Will there always be traffic flowing in each direction? MD: Yes, except for the major intersection closures from late March.</p> <p>NM: How will these works allow for the movement of pedestrians and cyclists? MD: A footpath on either side will remain open at all times and a new footpath built on the north side of Bridge Street.</p> <p>FF: How often and how long will diversions be in place during the blitz? 8 pm seems early to be closing the road. MD: The traffic management plan is still be approved and this time could change.</p> <p>FF: Preparations to close a road usually start earlier - this could affect businesses and have a impact on normal life for the community. MD: We have been planning these works for some time and part of this is scheduling these works to be completed on a weekend.</p> <p>JV: Will the Contact Centre be properly briefed on the Manningham Rd diversion? EP: The agents we use look after all of the Big Build Projects. NELP have a brief with the Contact Centre and provide them with key messaging. We try and answer enquiries at the time, but if it gets complicated, we get it passed on to a project rep to respond.</p> <p>JV: It's is a bit misleading as you expect them to be fully across just NELP and nothing else. EP: They are provided information on the different packages. They also have agents with expertise on certain projects.</p>
<p>Jaimie Ledwidge (JL) Matthew Hill (MHi)</p>	<p>Presentation covering the contract announcement video, an update on works, Bulleen Road diversion (south), where work sites will be established and community feedback.</p> <p>FF: The detail presented about the stage two Bulleen Rd diversion is completely inadequate. MHi: We are still working through the final detail of what the diversion will look like. We will have more information to share at the March meeting.</p> <p>FF: If the traffic is coming off the Eastern Freeway westbound how will traffic turn onto Bulleen Road? JL: The traffic switch is not expected until May, we still have a lot of discussion to come on how this will work. MHi: There will be some initial SUP works to connect Manningham Club to Bulleen rd. We also need to ensure we have enough clear wayfinding for the community.</p> <p>GJ: I believe there was not a lot of submissions to the southern end of the UDLP. I have read four submissions that have issues with the flawed design of the bridge. Has this feedback been taken onboard? MHi: We have safety workshops to ensure they meet all standards. We amended the design of the Heyington Bridge to create more space on the turning movement. Council are also included in these discussions. Council wants the best for the community. We really are focusing on this and we want a good experience for all users.</p> <p>NM: There has been a rapid increase in congestion over the last few weeks in the causing traffic to bank up. Will traffic signalisation be changing as part of the works? Do you monitor the impacts on congestion on local roads? It has a direct impact on the liveability for the local residents. MHi: we set guidelines on the level of service – change in service is still an acceptable band. Things are being facilitated by council and we are having good fortnightly discussions with them.</p> <p>NM: Is there monitoring that goes on? MHi: We have live feedback through our onsite surveillance. I get reports everyday that outline impact and issues on traffic. What is acceptable to the band we have maybe different to that in the community. We may need to look at the levels to get that aligned.</p> <p>AL: Is Doncaster Park and Ride part of the Eastern Freeways scope of works? MHi: Yes it is, We are working with Manningham Council and architects to create a masterplan for that site. This will have a separate UDLP that will go out to the public.</p> <p>FF: At the next meeting can you show us what the stage two Bulleen Road diversion will look like and how things will flow? And how long it will last ? MHi: I will show you a schematic, SUPs etc. We will also talk about what communication we will have with the community. CD: Boroondara Council would like to be involved in plans for Doncaster Park and Ride although it falls under Manningham Council.</p>

Owner	Action
Mike Marasco (MM)	<p>Other Business</p> <p>Nil</p> <p>Next meeting 22 March 2024</p> <p>Thanked SCLG members and presenters for the and closed the meeting at 11:41am.</p>

Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
S6-2	FF to be provided details of access to Veneto Club once diversion complete	MMc	9 Feb 2024	Closed	The project will brief Veneto Club in a separate forum to address their individual concerns
S6-3	Outcome of Bulleen Road safety audit to be provided to SCLG members	MMc	9 Feb 2024	Open	A summary report has been presented to the Veneto Club with further detail to come.
SC24 1-1	Has a pedestrian safety audit been completed on Bulleen Road? There is no wayfinding signage	CL	22 March 2024	Open	CL to confirm that clear wayfinding signage will be installed
SC24 1-2	Community Engagement update to be added to agenda for each meeting	ALL	22 March 2024	Closed	JW has added a slide into the presentation template. All packages are to provide a slide on how they are engaging with the Community at each meeting

Actions – Long Term

No	Owner	Topic	Status
S8-1(2021)	MHi	JV asks about ball net fencing at Freeway Golf Course (FGC) and that NELP should be responsible for funding this on top of existing works at the site. At the meeting on 25.08.23 JV reported Freeway golfers are hitting many balls from the first tee onto the area designated for the off-ramp to the Bulleen Road tunnel and therefore emphasises the need for the ball net to be funded.	MHi to advise if this may be possible as part of the Freeways package
S14-1	MHi	MHi to investigate potential for installing radar crossings for pedestrians	MHi to advise if these will be installed at some intersections/interchanges
S5-1	MH	Will Templestowe Rd will be duplicated as part of the intersection being signalised	MH to advise once information is available
S6-4	MH	<p>MH to provide GJ details of Shared User Path (SUP) works as requested below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breakdown of SUPs including kms of new paths and those that are simply being replaced, eg: existing path destroyed and relocated replacement paths. 	MH to advise once information is available

No	Owner	Topic	Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further information also requested on shared path removal, specifically the shared path on the west side of Bulleen Road Bridge, (there are no north bound bike lanes across the interchange between to connect the on road north bound bike lanes leaving vulnerable road users to mix with heavy vehicles, or to be significantly delayed by at least 8 call buttons. A shared path would provide the only safe and direct north bound crossing. 	
SC24 1-3	MH	AL has requested that feedback received and mitigations (including for PTV operator) that were put in place for the Bulleen Rd stage two closure be shown after these works	MH to advise once information is available

Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
2024	14 April 2023	Presentation on Motorway Control Centre	SM	Presentation to be given when information available
Q4	14 April 2023	MHi to present further information on managing the flood plain in Freeway package design	MHi	Presentation to be given when information available
Q1 2024	7 July 2023	CW to present NELP Sustainability	JW	Presentation to be given in early 2024
Q1 2024	9 February	Detailed information to be shown on stage two Bulleen Rd diversion	JL	Presentation to be given at 22 March meeting

Additional information